

Beck, J. R.

Prof. Duglison
with the respects
of Dr. Beck

J. R. BECK
ON THE
STATISTICS
OF THE
DEAF AND DUMB.

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ART. XII. STATISTICS of the DEAF AND DUMB in the STATE OF NEW-YORK, the UNITED STATES, and in various Countries of EUROPE, by T. RO-MEYN BECK, M. D.

[FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW-YORK STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.]

I have supposed that there might be some utility in collecting and arranging the Statistics of the DEAF AND DUMB in a compact and accessible form. The subject is of interest, particularly as it regards their education. Besides this, it is also curious to note the difference in the number of cases that occur in various countries. Any inference as to the causes of this infirmity, and its greater or less prevalence, must of course be based on the facts which have been elicited by accurate enumerations.

Two periods have now elapsed (1825 and 1835,) during which enumerations have been taken in the State of New-York. Intermediate between these, there has been one made in 1830, under the direction of the United States Government. The details of each are to be found only in the official publications that have been issued by the respective authorities, and as these are voluminous and not generally accessible, and their results have not been compared with the existing population, probably the information now given may be new to many of the readers of this communication.

I have subjoined such statistical details as I have been enabled to collect, concerning different European countries.

STATE OF NEW-YORK.

By the provisions of the law of this State, requiring an enumeration of its inhabitants to be taken every ten years, commencing with 1825, every marshal is directed to report the number of male and female Deaf and Dumb within his town or ward, under ten years of age—between ten and twenty-five years of age, and as to circumstances, whether they are supported by charity or are of sufficient ability to

support themselves. Finally, he is to report the total number.

The following is a tabular view of the two enumerations.

| Counties. | 1825. | | | | Total | 1835. | | | | Over 25. of either sex. | Total. |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| | Males. | | Females. | | | Males. | | Females. | | | |
| | Under 10. | Between 10 & 25. | Under 10. | Between 10 & 25. | | Under 10. | Between 10 & 25. | Under 10. | Between 10 & 25. | | |
| Albany, | 3 | 14 | 1 | 5 | 24 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 10 | *29 |
| Allegany, | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 10 | *22 |
| Broome, | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| Cattaraugus, | 3 | 2 | .. | 2 | 7 | 1 | 7 | .. | 2 | 9 | 19 |
| Cayuga, | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 25 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 20 |
| Chataugue, | .. | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 15 |
| Chenango, | 3 | 1 | 1 | .. | 6 | 3 | 2 | .. | 5 | 6 | 16 |
| Clinton, | 2 | 4 | .. | 6 | 12 | .. | 4 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 17 |
| Columbia, | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 17 |
| Cortland, | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| Delaware, | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 11 | .. | 4 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 19 |
| Dutchess, | .. | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | .. | 2 | 4 | 5 | 16 |
| Erie, | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 11 |
| Essex, | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | 1 | .. | 3 | .. | 3 | 7 |
| Franklin, | 3 | 1 | .. | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | .. | 8 |
| Genesee, | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 22 |
| Greene, | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | 6 | 10 |
| Herkimer, | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 14 |
| Jefferson, | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 18 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 33 |
| Kings, | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Lewis, | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | 5 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Livingston, | 1 | 1 | .. | 4 | 6 | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Madison, | .. | 5 | .. | 3 | 12 | 1 | 5 | .. | .. | 9 | 15 |
| Monroe, | .. | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 24 |
| Montgomery, .. | .. | 24 | 10 | 20 | 55 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 12 | 20 | *47 |
| New-York, | 1 | 31 | .. | 24 | 56 | 6 | 61 | 4 | 86 | 20 | 177 |
| Niagara, | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 4 | 7 |
| Oneida, | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 33 |
| Onondaga, | .. | 4 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 21 |
| Ontario, | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 15 | .. | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| Orange, | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 26 |
| Orleans, | 1 | 5 | .. | 2 | 8 | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| Oswego, | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 20 |
| Otsego, | 2 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 26 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 30 |
| Putnam, | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 4 | 6 |
| Queens, | .. | 5 | .. | 2 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 15 |
| Rensselaer, | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 | *22 |
| Richmond, | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Rockland, | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 4 | 5 |
| Saratoga, | 1 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 14 | .. | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 12 |
| Schenectady, .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 17 |
| Schoharie, | 2 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 2 | .. | 4 | 4 | 11 |
| Seneca, | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| St. Lawrence, .. | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | *17 |
| Steuben, | .. | .. | 5 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 20 |
| Suffolk, | 1 | 3 | .. | 3 | 7 | 2 | 7 | .. | 1 | 8 | 18 |
| Sullivan, | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 |
| Tioga, | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | .. | 2 | 8 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|------|----|------|-----|-----|-----|----|------|------|------|
| Tompkins, | .. | 7 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 16 |
| Ulster, | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 19 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 25 |
| Warren, | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Washington, | 3 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 25 | 1 | 4 | .. | 7 | 8 | 20 |
| Wayne, | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 23 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 41 |
| Westchester, | .. | 3 | .. | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | | 7 |
| Yates, | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| | 68 | 220 | 67 | 213 | 644 | 108 | 222 | 83 | 277 | 343 | 1033 |

REMARKS.

Census of 1825—Erie County.—In the official account of this census (Recapitulation Table) the numbers between 10 and 25 in Erie county is stated to be two, but by referring to the county return, it will be found to be one. Hence the result of this column requires alteration from 221 to 220.

Ontario County.—In the recapitulation table, the total in this county is put 16. It should be 15.

In consequence of these alterations, the grand total is 644, and not 645, as stated in the printed census and copied in an article published in the New-York Medical and Physical Journal, vol. 5, p. 206.

Census of 1835.—There are several important errors in the official tables.

Albany County.—In the recapitulation table, the total of this county is carried out as 27, but it should be 29, as *four* are enumerated in the second ward of the city of Albany, and but *two* carried out in the total column.

Allegany County has in the same table 21 credited to it. It should be 22, since there is one in the town of Ossian, whose age is not given, but who is enumerated in the non-charity list.

Rensselaer County is put down in the same table total 19. It should be 22, as three in the first ward of Troy are not counted here. The county return is accurate.

St. Lawrence County, in the table, is put total 16, but one enumerated in the town of Brasher in the columns of charity, but not in those of age, should be added.

The census of the Central Asylum at Canajoharie, appended to that of Montgomery county, is not included in the general recapitulation table. It is as follows :

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Males, under 10, | 1 | Females, under 10, | 1 |
| between 10 & 25, 11 | | between 10 & 25, 16 | |
| — | | over 25 years, 1 | |
| 12 | | — | |
| | | 18 | |

There is a further misprint in the grand total in the official recapitulation table. It is 933 and should be 1033. If, then, we add to this last, the *seven* above noticed, where ages are not stated, Albany 2, Allegany 1, Rensselaer 3 and St. Lawrence 1 ; and also the census of the Central Asylum at Canajoharie, the total will be 1070.

After these corrections, and which it may be proper to state I have taken great pains to verify, the results of these tables will stand as follows :

| | 1825. | 1835.* |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|
| <i>Males</i> , under 10 years, | 68 | 109 |
| between 10 and 25, | 220 | 233 |
| <i>Females</i> , under 10 years, | 67 | 84 |
| between 10 and 25, | 213 | 293 |
| Number above 25, | 76 | 344 |
| Age not stated, | 00 | 7 |
| | 644 | 1070 |

| Year. | No. of Deaf & Dumb. | Population. | Proportion |
|--------|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1825. | 644 | 1,616,458 | 1 in 2510 |
| 1830.† | 885 | 1,918,608 | 1 in 2167 |
| 1835. | 1070 | 2,174,517 | 1 in 2032 |

I may add that the State Asylums for the deaf and dumb are respectively at New-York and Canajoharie.

* The census of the Canajoharie Asylum is added under each appropriate head. † United States census. See the next table.

The following additional results are obtained from the official tables :

| | 1825. | 1835. |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Supported by charity, | 141 | 278 |
| Of sufficient ability to support themselves, | 387 | 541 |
| | <hr/> 528 | <hr/> 819 |

UNITED STATES.

The marshals of the respective districts were required by the Department of State to make the following inquiries :

1. What number of white persons were there who were deaf and dumb under fourteen years of age—deaf and dumb of fourteen and under twenty-five, and deaf and dumb of twenty-five and upwards ?
2. The same inquiries as to slaves and colored persons.

The results of this census are given in the following table.

*Deaf and Dumb in the United States, according to the
Census of 1830.*

| States and Territories. | Whites. | | | | Slaves and colored persons. | | | | Grand Total. |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | Under 14. | Between 14 & 25. | 25 and upwards. | Total. | Under 14. | Between 14 & 25. | 25 and upwards. | Total. | |
| Maine, | 64 | 60 | 56 | 180 | 4 | .. | 1 | 5 | 185 |
| New Hampshire, | 32 | 55 | 48 | 135 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 144 |
| Massachusetts, | 56 | 62 | 138 | 256 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 265 |
| Rhode Island, | 6 | 22 | 28 | 56 | 2 | 2 | .. | 4 | 60 |
| *Connecticut, | 43 | 152 | 99 | 294 | 4 | 2 | .. | 6 | 300 |
| Vermont, | 39 | 59 | 55 | 153 | 3 | .. | 2 | 5 | 158 |
| New-York, | 277 | 310 | 255 | 842 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 43 | 885 |
| New Jersey, | 64 | 71 | 72 | 207 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 15 | 222 |
| Pennsylvania, | 224 | 279 | 255 | 758 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 39 | 797 |
| Delaware, | 6 | 15 | 14 | 35 | .. | 5 | 4 | 9 | 44 |
| Maryland, | 50 | 31 | 54 | 135 | 40 | 30 | 26 | 96 | 231 |
| Virginia, | 132 | 118 | 169 | 419 | 51 | 41 | 38 | 130 | 549 |
| North Carolina, | 70 | 81 | 79 | 230 | 31 | 27 | 25 | 83 | 313 |
| South Carolina, | 60 | 52 | 62 | 174 | 9 | 27 | 33 | 69 | 243 |
| Georgia, | 50 | 51 | 44 | 145 | 26 | 21 | 12 | 59 | 204 |
| Alabama, | 45 | 25 | 19 | 89 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 112 |
| Mississippi, | 12 | 10 | 7 | 29 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 12 | 41 |
| Louisiana, | 15 | 15 | 19 | 49 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 21 | 70 |
| Tennessee, | 59 | 59 | 54 | 172 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 28 | 200 |
| Kentucky, | 100 | 113 | 90 | 303 | 16 | 25 | 5 | 46 | 349 |
| Ohio, | 148 | 160 | 118 | 426 | 5 | .. | 4 | 9 | 435 |
| Indiana, | 49 | 59 | 33 | 141 | 1 | 2 | .. | 3 | 144 |
| Illinois, | 23 | 27 | 16 | 66 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 66 |
| Missouri, | 12 | 5 | 10 | 27 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 35 |
| Michigan, | 4 | 7 | 4 | 15 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| Arkansas, | 6 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 4 | .. | .. | 4 | 14 |
| Florida, | 2 | .. | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| District of Columbia, | 4 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | 14 |
| | 1652 | 1905 | 1806 | 5363 | 273 | 246 | 224 | 743 | 6106 |

The population of the United States, as ascertained by the census amounts to..... 12,860,702

Add census of the navy of U. S.,..... 5,318

Total population, 12,866,020

Proportion, 1 in 2,107

*126 in West Hartford.

Proportion of Deaf and Dumb in the several States.

| States. | Population. | Deaf and Dumb. | Proportion. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Maine, - - - | 399,455 | 185 | 1 in 2159 |
| New Hampshire, - - - | 269,328 | 144 | 1 in 1870 |
| Massachusetts, - - - | 610,408 | 265 | 1 in 2303 |
| Rhode Island, - - - | 97,199 | 60 | 1 in 1619 |
| Connecticut, - - - | 297,675 | 300 | 1 in 992 |
| Vermont, - - - | 280,652 | 158 | 1 in 1776 |
| New-York, - - - | 1,918,608 | 885 | 1 in 2167 |
| New Jersey, - - - | 320,823 | 222 | 1 in 1445 |
| Pennsylvania, - - - | 1,348,233 | 797 | 1 in 1691 |
| Delaware, - - - | 76,748 | 44 | 1 in 1744 |
| Maryland, - - - | 447,040 | 231 | 1 in 1935 |
| Virginia, - - - | 1,211,405 | 549 | 1 in 2206 |
| North Carolina, - - - | 737,987 | 313 | 1 in 2357 |
| South Carolina, - - - | 581,185 | 243 | 1 in 2391 |
| Georgia, - - - | 516,823 | 204 | 1 in 2533 |
| Alabama, - - - | 309,527 | 112 | 1 in 2763 |
| Mississippi, - - - | 136,621 | 41 | 1 in 3332 |
| Louisiana, - - - | 215,739 | 70 | 1 in 3081 |
| Tennessee, - - - | 681,904 | 200 | 1 in 3409 |
| Kentucky, - - - | 687,917 | 349 | 1 in 1971 |
| Ohio, - - - | 937,903 | 435 | 1 in 2156 |
| Indiana, - - - | 343,031 | 144 | 1 in 2382 |
| Illinois, - - - | 157,445 | 66 | 1 in 2385 |
| Missouri, - - - | 140,455 | 35 | 1 in 4013 |
| Michigan, - - - | 31,639 | 15 | 1 in 2109 |
| Arkansas, - - - | 30,388 | 14 | 1 in 2170 |
| Florida, - - - | 34,730 | 11 | 1 in 3157 |
| District of Columbia, - | 39,834 | 14 | 1 in 2845 |
| | | 6106 | |

It is impossible to examine the above tables, without being struck with two circumstances.

1. The first is the remarkable diversity in the proportion of deaf and dumb occurring in various States. Thus, even if we exclude Connecticut, on account of her extensive asylum, and which undoubtedly increases her ratio, it still seems difficult to explain why the Northern States should have a larger proportion than the Southern, or again, why the proportion of Rhode-Island, which joins Massachusetts, should be so much greater than that of the latter State. If we examine the counties in a particular State we find, for example, that the county of Wayne, in the State of New-York, with a population of 37,788 has 41 deaf and dumb, while Ontario, an adjoining county in the same State, with a population of 40,870, has only 8.

2. The second is, the apparently rapid increase of these unfortunate beings. True, the facts on this point are not numerous, but all that we have, tend to show this. Besides the State of New-York, in which the increase during a period of ten years is strikingly shown by the facts stated above, there are several other data which I have incidentally noted and which corroborate the opinion advanced. Thus, Governor Van Ness, in his speech to the Legislature of Vermont, delivered October 10, 1823, mentioned that in 1817, a law was passed directing the Secretary of State to ascertain the number of deaf and dumb within the State, their ages and situation in life. By a report made the next year, it appeared that there were then seventy persons of that description, and that thirty-five of them were of a proper age to be admitted into an asylum for education. The number in 1830 was 158.

Again, in Pennsylvania, according to official returns made to the Governor in 1821, there were 485 deaf and dumb, while in 1828, but 468 were enumerated.* In 1830, according to the United States census, the number was 797.

* Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania, vol. 4. p. 380.

In the "Fourth Circular of the Royal Institute of the deaf and dumb at Paris," published in 1836, a table is given, founded on one originally prepared by Mr. Burnet, a mute, to show the relative proportion of the deaf and dumb in the white and colored population of the United States. I add some of the abstracts.

Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb.

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| Northern States, including Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Isl- and, Connecticut, Vermont, New- York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Southern States. Maryland, District of Columbia, Vir- ginia, North Carolina, South Car- olina, Georgia. South-western States. Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Florida. North-western States. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Total, | White popu- lation. | White deaf and dumb. | Proportion. | Colored population. | Colored deaf & dumb. | Proportion. | Total deaf & dumb. | Proportion to the whole population. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| | 1870. | 1870. | 1870. | 1870. | 1870. | 1870. | 1870. | 1870. |
| | 5,471,768 | 2916 | 1 in 1877 | 144,361 | 1441 | 1 in 1002 | 3060 | 1 in 1836 |
| | 2,040,483 | 1115 | 1 in 1830 | 1403,791 | 439 | 1 in 3402 | 1554 | 1 in 2274 |
| | 1,563,674 | 681 | 1 in 2281 | 674,607 | 148 | 1 in 4,558 | 832 | 1 in 2689 |
| | 1,454,125 | 618 | 1 in 2344 | 15,888 | 121 | 1 in 1323 | 660 | 1 in 2227 |
| | 10,532,060 | 5363 | 1 in 1964 | 2325,642 | 743 | 1 in 3134 | 6106 | 1 in 2106 |

There is one comment made by the editor of the work from which I have taken this abstract, to which I cannot too pointedly call the attention of my readers. It is the fact of the far greater prevalence of this infirmity among the free blacks than among the slave population. Thus in the ten northern States, as enumerated, the proportion is 1 in 1002, although there is scarcely a slave in these States. So also in the north-western district, the proportion is 1 in 1323. While in the southern States, where all are slaves, the proportion is 1 in 3402, and in the south-western 1 in 4558. If physical causes have the slightest effect in producing this malady, does not the above statement prove that the condition of our free blacks is infinitely worse than that of their brethren at the south?

I now proceed to state such European results as I have been enabled to procure.

KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA.

The number of deaf and dumb, according to a census taken in 1825, was 6786; in 1827, 6764; in 1828, 8223, in a population of 12,726,823, making a proportion of one mute to every 1548 inhabitants. A diversity similar to that which I have already stated, exists as to the numbers in the respective provinces of this kingdom. Thus, East Prussia has one deaf and dumb to every 1078 inhabitants, while Cleves-Berg has only one to every 2844. The writer who notices these facts, observes that the only circumstances which seem to have any influence in producing this diversity, are that those provinces in which knowledge is most extensively diffused and which enjoy most completely the conveniences of life, have a smaller number of deaf and dumb.*

The following table exhibits the age of the above individuals.

* *Troisieme Circulaire de L'Institut Royal des Sourd—Muets de Paris a toutes les Institutions de Sourd—Muets de L'Europe, de l'Amerique et De l'Asie*, 8 vo. Paris, 1832. I am indebted for this and the other circulars, published respectively in 1827, 1829, 1832 and 1836, to the kindness of John A. Dix. Esq. Secretary of State.

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| From 1 to 5 years, | 275 |
| 5 to 10 " | 1118 |
| 10 to 15 " | 1400 |
| 15 to 20 " | 1220 |
| 20 to 25 " | 1063 |
| 25 to 30 " | 891 |
| 30 to 35 " | 563 |
| 35 to 40 " | 466 |
| 40 to 45 " | 317 |
| 45 to 50 " | 331 |
| 50 to 55 " | 208 |
| 55 to 60 " | 166 |
| 60 to 65 " | 128 |
| 65 to 70 " | 38 |
| 70 to 75 " | 26 |
| 75 to 80 " | 7 |
| 80 to 85 " | 5 |
| 85 to 90 " | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 8223 |

Sex.—Of 2819 whose sexes were ascertained by the census of 1825, 1591 were males and 1228 females, being in the portion of 4 to 3.*

SWITZERLAND.

From an examination made in several cantons, the following returns were obtained, probably in 1826, but I have not been able to ascertain the precise year.

| | Population. | Deaf and Dumb. | Proportion. |
|----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Zürich, | 220,000 | 225 | 1 in 1000 |
| Vaud, | 155,000 | 152 | 1 in 1000 |
| Basle, | 50,00 | 100 | 1 in 500 |
| Argovia, | 120,000 | 300 | 1 in 400 |
| Berne, | 350,000 | 1000 | 1 in 350 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 895,000 | 1777 | 1 in 503 |

* Troisième Circulaire, p. 127.

The details of the Pays De Vaud are as follows. Out of 152, there are 66, 30 males and 36 females, capable of receiving instruction, while 70, 40 males and 30 females, are either from age or disease, or mental imbecility approaching cretenism, incapable of it. Lastly, 16, 7 males and 9 females, form an intermediate class between the two, and the prospect of instructing them is faint. The majority belong to poor families, and of 82 capable of instruction, only 26 can contribute towards its expense.*

DENMARK.

In the Danish Dominions, from returns made by the clergy in 1807, the number of deaf and dumb was 515 in a population of 820,621, being one in every 1593.† According to the table in the third circular of the Paris Deaf and Dumb Institution, the number was 1260 with a population of 1,800,000—being in the proportion of 1 to 1428 and not 1714, as stated in the table and copied from thence into the last (seventh) edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica.‡ Hence there would be an increase instead of a diminution of the number, but I apprehend that this statement is merely conjectural, as I can find no authority for the number stated of the deaf and dumb. In 1834, however, a census was taken by order of the Government, of which the following are abstracts.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Zealand, including the city of Copenhagen, | 144 | 114 | 258 |
| Diocese of Laaland and Fals- ter, | 13 | 12 | 25 |
| Diocese of Funen, | 51 | 46 | 97 |
| Jutland, including four Dio- ceses, | 129 | 121 | 250 |
| | <hr/> 337 | <hr/> 293 | <hr/> 630 |

* Troisieme Circulaire, p. 121. Bulletin des Sciences Medicales, vol. 11, p. 53. † Dr. Reeve in Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. 7, p. 60. ‡ Vol. 7, Art. Deaf and Dumb.

Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb.

| Age. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| From 1 to 8 years, | 24 | 27 | 51 |
| 8 to 14 " " | 64 | 39 | 103 |
| 14 to 20 " | 62 | 45 | 107 |
| 20 to 30 " | 77 | 68 | 145 |
| 30 to 40 " | 40 | 49 | 89 |
| 40 to 50 " | 29 | 24 | 53 |
| 50 to 60 " | 26 | 25 | 51 |
| 60 to 70 " | 14 | 10 | 24 |
| Above 70 " | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| | <hr/> 337 | <hr/> 293 | <hr/> 630 |

The directors of the Royal Institution of Copenhagen suggest, that the number in the first line, between : and 8 years, is hardly complete, since very frequently the fact is not sufficiently ascertained during that period, of the infirmity of the child, or at all events, that there will be an indisposition to register it. They conceive that the number should be doubled, and the total will hence be 680.

The proportion in various parts of the population is thus stated.

| | Number. | Population. | Proportion. |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| The Capital, Copenhagen, | $62 + 5 = 67$ | 119,292 | 1 in 1780 |
| The cities, | $65 + 5 = 70$ | 132,220 | 1 in 1889 |
| The country, | $503 + 40 = 543$ | 972,295 | 1 in 1791 |
| | <hr/> $630 + 50 = 680$ | <hr/> 1,223,807 | <hr/> 1 in 1800 |

If to these we add Iceland and the Faroe Islands, population 57,000 and 6,000—and the Dutchies of Schleswig, Holstein and Lauenberg, population 800,000, and allow to them deaf and Dumb in the proportion as above, of 1 to every 1800, the total for the whole Danish Dominions will be as follows.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Danish Provinces, properly so called, | 680 |
| Iceland and the Faroe Islands, | 35 |
| Dutchies of Schleswig, Holstein and Lauenberg, | 450 |
| | <hr/> 1165* |

KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

In 1829, previous to the separation of Holland and Belgium there were in that kingdom 2166 mutes in a population of 6,166,854, being a proportion of 1 in 2847.

BELGIUM.

In 1835, a census of the deaf and dumb was taken in this kingdom, which I present in a tabular form, adding the sexes of those aged from 6 to 18 years.

| PROVINCES. | Population. | Deaf & dumb. | Proportion: | Males from 6 to 18. | Females fm. 6 to 18. | Total. |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Antwerp, - | 358,107 | 102 | 1 to 3511 | 17 | 17 | 34 |
| Brabant, - | 565,353 | 240 | 1 to 2355 | 43 | 28 | 71 |
| West Flanders, | 609,045 | 281 | 1 to 2167 | 58 | 36 | 94 |
| East Flanders, | 743,232 | 312 | 1 to 2382 | 61 | 57 | 118 |
| Hainault, - - | 617,683 | 331 | 1 to 1866 | 40 | 47 | 87 |
| Liege, - - | 377,909 | 194 | 1 to 1948 | 27 | 16 | 43 |
| Limburg, - - | 341,880 | 173 | 1 to 1976 | 26 | 18 | 44 |
| Luxemburg, - | 311,113 | 127 | 1 to 2450 | 20 | 19 | 39 |
| Namur, - - | 217,935 | 140 | 1 to 1557 | 19 | 15 | 34 |
| Total, | 4,142,257 | 1900 | 1 to 2180 | 311 | 253 | 564 |

The proportion of the sexes in the whole number is eight females to ten males.*

KINGDOM OF SAXONY.

| | Population. | Deaf and Dumb. | Proportion. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| July 3, 1832, ~ | 1,558,153 | 1168 | 1 in 1334 |

It is here also suggested that many between the ages of one and five have not been counted, and it is proposed to add one-eighth for this omission, which will be 146, and thus raise the number to 1314, and make the proportion 1 to every 1186 inhabitants.

Of the number obtained by the census, 643 are males and 525 females. The male population of Saxony is 756,554 and the female 801,599. The proportion then, of male mutes to the whole male population, is one in every 1177, and of the female, 1 in 1527. The true mode, however, of comparing the sexes in this respect, is to apply the male proportion to

* Quatrieme Circulaire, B 220.

the female population. This will give 681 as the number of male mutes to a male population equal to the females, and the ratio therefore will be 681 to 525, or nearly 4 males to 3 females.*

According to Mr. Preston, another census of this kingdom was declared December 1, 1834, with the following results.

| Population. | Deaf and Dumb. | Proportion. |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1,595,668 | 1010 | 1 in 1579† |

DUTCHY OF BRUNSWICK.

The following medico-statistical table of the deaf and dumb in this Dutchy, in 1836, by Dr. Mansfeld, I take from a recent number of the British and Foreign Medical Review.

1. The whole population of the Dutchy is 253,232 ; the total number of deaf and dumb 125, consequently the proportion is 1 in 2026. 2. Of the 125, 60 are males and 65 females. 3. Nearly the fourth part of the whole number had one or two brothers or sisters similarly affected. 4. For the most part, these persons belong to the middle and lower classes, their parents being generally poor. 5. The health of these persons is in general good, those residing in the vicinity of the Harz are said to be scrofulous, and five of the whole number are idiotic. In two cases only could the deaf and dumbness be traced to distinct causes, viz. one as the consequence of fright, the other of miliary fever. 6. Almost all the deaf and dumb in the Dutchy have the benefit of education, a circumstance very creditable to the country, and which the author, with a just pride, contrasts with the great neglect of the same class of persons in Austria, in which vast empire it appears that out of 20,639 individuals laboring under this infirmity, only 400 are placed in houses of instruction, 10 in number, all the rest being left without assistance. When it is considered that of this number the fifth part at least are susceptible of instruction, there is evidently here a great neglect of the duties of humanity. 7. With the exception of those who are yet too young to work or who are mentally incapable

* Quatrieme Circulaire, p. 206. † Lond. Athenæum, No. 443, April 23, 1836.

of gaining their livelihood, or are supported by relatives, (57 in all) or who are in the course of instruction (number not mentioned,) all the others are gaining their own livelihood, as artizans and laborers. Doctor Mansfeld calls the particular attention of teachers to the fact that in many cases the inability to acquire the sound of particular letters or words depends on physical defects of the organs of speech, and not mental incapacity. In proof of this, he instances nine cases among the children at this time in the Brunswick Institution, who labor under some defect of this kind. The defects mentioned are the following: Imperfect uvula; thick tongue, without fraenum; large tongue, long and irregular uvula; tongue deficient in muscularity; tubular palate, imperfect uvula, enlarged tonsils; flat and irregular palate, general defective size of mouth, large tonsils; imperfectly developed larynx.*

ENGLAND.†

"It has been ascertained that the number of deaf and dumb in England and Wales is not less than 8000. One in every 1750, the population being 14 millions."‡

IRELAND.

"M. Mucke, Director of the Institution at Prague informs us that a census of the deaf and dumb has been taken in Ireland, and that 3500 were found in a population of 6 millions, being 1 in every 1714."‡

ITALY.

According to a government census in the Dutchy of Modena, the Commune of Modena contained 25 deaf and dumb in 50,000; Province of Reggio 72 in 142,000.

No further details have been obtained, but it is stated on the authority of M. Fabriani, that the proportion ascertained is 1 in 2000. Now as the population of the whole Dutchy is 376,000, the number of deaf and dumb is probably 188.

The city of Rome, with a population of 150,000, contains 70 deaf and dumb, 30 females and 40 males.§

* British and Foreign Medical Review, vol. 3, p. 255, from the *Hannoversche Annalen*, October, 1836. † London Journal of Education, vol. 7, p. 193. ‡ *Troisieme Circulaire*, p. 125. § *Quatrieme Circulaire*, p. 205.

The above are all the authentic reports (with the exception of those given in the succeeding table,) that I have been enabled to obtain. It does not appear that a census has yet been taken in France or in the Austrian empire. To supply these deficiencies, and at the same time to form some estimate as to the probable number of the deaf and dumb, the editors of the "Troisieme Circulaire" constructed a table of such as were then (1832,) ascertained and took the average and applied it to the population of various countries, and finally to the whole world. This table is as follows.

| Countries. | Population. | Deaf & dumb. | Proportion. |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Switzerland, | 895,000 | 1,777 | 1 in 503 |
| Grand Duchy of Baden, | 1,108,060 | 1,983 | 1 in 559 |
| Wurtemberg, | 1,550,215 | 1,250 | 1 in 1240 |
| Bavaria, | 4,037,000 | 2,908 | 1 in 1388 |
| Prussia, | 12,726,823 | 8,223 | 1 in 1548 |
| Electorate of Hesse, | 550,000 | 400 | 1 in 1375 |
| Duchy of Nassau, | 300,000 | 210 | 1 in 1428 |
| Duchy of Brunswick, | 206,000 | 176 | 1 in 1170 |
| Netherlands, | 6,166,854 | 2,166 | 1 in 2847 |
| Denmark, | 1,800,000 | 1,260 | 1 in 1428* |
| Ireland, | 6,000,000 | 3,500 | 1 in 1714 |
| United States, | 12,000,000 | 6,000 | 1 in 2000 |
| | 47,339,952 | 29,853 | 1 in 1585 |

The average number (1585) is now taken and applied to those countries in which no census of the deaf and dumb had been taken, and a second table being thus formed, and the whole again compared, it appeared that Europe, with a population of 214 millions probably contained 139,212 deaf and dumb.† It is not necessary to copy this table after the foregoing explanation. It may be found in full in the Encyclopedia Britannica, as already quoted.

I will now subjoin a table of those countries which I have mentioned in the former part of this paper, for the purpose of establishing a comparison between it and the one just given. The object of course, is to ascertain if possible, whether the

*Corrected as stated in a previous page. †Troisieme Circulaire, p. 126.
182.

proportion of deaf and dumb has on the whole during the last few years, increased, diminished, or remained stationary.

| Countries. | Population. | Deaf & dumb. | Proportion. |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| New-York, 1835, | 2,174,517 | 1070 | 1 in 2032 |
| Denmark, 1834, | 1,223,807 | 680 | 1 in 1800 |
| Belgium, 1835, | 4,142,257 | 1900 | 1 in 2180 |
| Saxony, 1834, | 1,595,668 | 1010 | 1 in 1579 |
| Brunswick, 1836,† | 253,232 | 125 | 1 in 2026 |
| | 9,389,481 | 4785 | 1 in 1962 |

At first sight, the result may seem to shew a diminution in the number, in proportion to the population; but it must be recollected that the countries examined, contain in all less than ten millions—that they are generally healthy countries, and that some states, as Switzerland, where the number of deaf and dumb is unusually great, do not enter into the elements of calculation. If these points be considered, we shall I think, be willing to allow that the former average (1 in 1500) is probably the nearest to exactness.

As to the question of increase, in particular countries, it would certainly seem from most of the data now given, to be decided in the affirmative.

Sex. We have but few facts on this point. The following is given in the French treatise already referred to.

| | Deaf & Dumb. | Males. | Females. | Proportion. |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|----------|-------------|
| Canton of Zurich, | 206 | 111 | 95 | 7 to 6 |
| Prussia, - - | 2819 | 1591 | 1228 | 4 to 3 |
| Denmark, - - - | 607 | 325 | 282 | 8 to 7 |
| State of N. Y. (1825) | 569 | 289 | 280 | 32 to 31 |
| | 4201 | 2316 | 1885 | 6 to 5 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|----------|
| We may add to this, | | | | |
| State of New-York, 1835, - | 719 | 342 | 377 | 19 to 21 |
| Dutchy of Brunswick, 1836, | 125 | 60 | 65 | 12 to 13 |
| Denmark, 1834, . - - - | 630 | 337 | 293 | 7 to 6 |
| Belgium, 1835, - - - - | 564 | 311 | 253 | 6 to 5* |
| Saxony, 1832, - - - - - | 1168 | 643 | 525 | 6 to 5* |
| | 3206 | 1693 | 1513 | 6 to 5 |

*Nearly.

ART. XIII. STATISTICS of the BLIND in the UNITED STATES, as ascertained by the Census of 1830, by T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D.

(Communicated by the Author.)

| States, &c. | Whites. | Slaves and colored persons. | Total. |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Maine, | 159 | 1 | 160 |
| New-Hampshire, | 105 | ... | 105 |
| Massachusetts, | 218 | 5 | 223 |
| Rhode Island, | 56 | 8 | 64 |
| Connecticut, | 188 | 7 | 195 |
| Vermont, | 51 | .. | 51 |
| New-York, | 642 | 82 | 724 |
| New Jersey, | 205 | 22 | 227 |
| Pennsylvania, | 475 | 28 | 503 |
| Delaware, | 18 | 11 | 29 |
| Maryland, | 147 | 124 | 271 |
| Virginia, | 355 | 438 | 793 |
| North Carolina, | 223 | 161 | 384 |
| South Carolina, | 102 | 136 | 238 |
| Georgia, | 150 | 123 | 273 |
| Alabama, | 68 | 48 | 116 |
| Mississippi, | 25 | 31 | 56 |
| Louisiana, | 36 | 77 | 113 |
| Tennessee, | 176 | 37 | 213 |
| Kentucky, | 169 | 83 | 252 |
| Ohio, | 232 | 6 | 238 |
| Indiana, | 85 | 2 | 87 |
| Illinois, | 35 | 4 | 39 |
| Missouri, | 27 | 10 | 37 |
| Michigan, | 5 | ... | 5 |
| Arkansas, | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Florida, | 3 | 16 | 19 |
| District of Columbia, | 11 | 8 | 19 |
| | 3974 | 1470 | 5444 |

Proportion, 1 in 2363.

A still later investigation on this subject has been made under the authority of the Legislature of Ohio, and it appears that in 1836, there were no less than 287 blind, in 59 counties of that state, ; 160 males and 127 females. Of this number 60 were under sixteen years of age, and 29 from 16 to 25*.

The following exhibits the number of blind in the kingdom of Saxony, at two different periods.†

| | Population. | Blind. | Proportion. |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| July 3, 1832, | 1,558.123 | 423 | 1 in 3675 |
| December 1, 1834, | 1,595.668 | 324 | 1 in 4924 |

*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. 16, p. 35, (Feb. 15, 1837.)
In the United States census for 1830, 73 counties are enumerated in Ohio.

†London Athenæum, April 23, 1836.

N. B. After every effort to render the figures in the preceding pages accurate, I find one or two errors have crept in. Page 328. Montgomery county, 1825, insert 1 in the column of males under 10.

Saratoga county, 1825, the total is 13 and not 14.

Schoharie county, 1825, the total is 14 and not 13.

